

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for containerlessly packaging non-woven safety garments, comprising:

a) at least partially filling a pressing cavity having a predetermined orthorhombic parallelepiped shape with non-woven safety garments;

b) applying isostatic pressure to the cavity to compact the garments into a compressed mass;

c) wrapping the compressed mass; ~~and~~

d) gusseting the compressed mass; and

~~de~~) removing the compressed mass from the cavity;

wherein the wrapped compressed mass is substantially orthorhombic parallelepiped-shaped;

wherein the gusseting assists in retention of the substantially orthorhombic parallelepiped-shaped.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein after a) and before ~~de~~) a partial vacuum is applied to the pressing cavity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a partial vacuum is generated in the pressing cavity during c).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the isostatic pressure is about 80 PSI.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pressing cavity is substantially cubic.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pressing cavity has the shape of an orthorhombic parallelepiped.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the nonwoven garments are formed of a spunbond/melt blown/melt blown/spunbond material.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the volume of the cavity is at least about 4500 square inches, the mass load of the cavity is about 10 pounds, and the applied isostatic compression force is about 80 PSI.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compressed mass is twice wrapped.

10. (New) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of f) stacking the substantially orthorhombic parallelepiped-shaped gusseted compressed mass atop other substantially orthorhombic parallelepiped-shaped gusseted compressed masses; wherein the stacked substantially orthorhombic parallelepiped-shaped gusseted compressed masses substantially retain their shapes.

11. (New) A method for producing stackable blocks of wrapped non-woven safety garments, comprising:

a) at least partially filling a pressing cavity having a predetermined block shape with non-woven safety garments;

b) applying isostatic pressure to the cavity to compact the garments into a compressed block;

c) wrapping the compressed block with a first layer of nonshedding wrapping material;

d) gusseting the compressed block with a second layer of nonshedding wrapping material;

e) removing the compressed block from the cavity;

f) stacking the compressed block with other substantially identical compressed blocks to produce a stack of compressed blocks; and

g) shipping the stack of compressed blocks;

wherein the wrapped compressed block substantially retains the shape of the pressing cavity; and

wherein the stacked compressed blocks substantially retain their shape during shipping.

12. (New) A method of producing, shipping and storing stackable blocks of containerless wrapped non-woven safety garments, comprising:

a) placing a plurality of non-woven safety garments into a pressing cavity defining a predetermined block shape;

b) isostatically compacting the garments into a compressed block;

c) wrapping the compressed block with a first layer of wrapping material;

d) gusseting the compressed block with a second layer of wrapping material;

e) removing the compressed block from the cavity;

f) stacking the compressed block with other substantially identical compressed blocks to produce a stack of compressed blocks;

g) shipping the stack of compressed blocks; and

h) storing the compressed blocks;

wherein compressed blocks substantially retain their predetermined shape;

wherein the stacked compressed blocks substantially retain their predetermined shape during shipping;

wherein the stacked compressed blocks substantially retain their predetermined shape during storage; and

wherein unwrapping the wrapped compressed blocks produces substantially no particulate shedding.